

City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

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TO: Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker 
Analine Powers 

RE: Report on Police Lawsuit Activity for 2005

DATE: March 20, 2006

On September 16, 2005, this Honorable Body held a discussion on the Research and Analysis Division's (RAD) Police Lawsuit Report dated June 30, 2005. At that discussion, City Council directed a follow-up discussion be held after the first of the year. In preparation for that discussion to be held on March 23, 2006, this report has been prepared.

This report differs from previous reports in that it covers only one year of police lawsuit activity. As you are aware, there have been numerous layoffs in the Information and Technology Services Department (ITS). One of the persons affected by these cutbacks is the programmer who has been writing the code necessary to automate the generation of the numerous tables contained within the previous reports and the identification of police officers involved in more than one lawsuit. The sheer of volume of cases and number of police officers in the current master database prohibits manual tabulations to create the tables or calculate any new repeaters. Prior to the ITS programmer's departure, he did not finish some tasks necessary to integrate newly entered data into the pre-existing database. Consequently, the data for 2005 cannot be incorporated into the totals in the Report tables. Correspondingly, because the new data cannot be merged with the 18-year master database making it is impossible to calculate any data on repeaters for 2005.

The following Table presents an overview of the available data for 2005.

Number Of Cases By Category And Costs For Those Cases

	Total Cases	Cases Requesting Settlement	Total Cost for Settlements	Million Dollar or More Cases	Amount for Million Dollar Cases	Cases Requesting Representation
2004	282	131	\$22,148,900	3	12,980,000	185
2005	270	150	\$16,355,730	3	\$8,050,000	112
Total for 18-Year Period	3304	1912	\$204,646,141	36	\$86,711,308	1624

It should also be noted that RAD has given a copy of the master database used to crease the previous report and covering the 17-year time period over to the Law Department. Any request for copies of the database should now go through the Law Department. To the best of our knowledge, no copies have been distributed to date.

It is hoped that the programming problem that currently exists with the database can be fixed shortly and that future reports will be in previous complete format.

If you have any further questions or direction, please do not hesitate to contact either Analine Powers or myself at 224-4946.